

Essential questions for 1st-year iPad implementation

1. Who will your teacher-leader(s) be?

- Someone who is willing to take on the communication between admin and staff
- Someone who can communicate clearly the expectations throughout the year.
- Someone willing to help coordinate time during staff meetings that emphasizes iPads and how they are (or aren't) working.
- These leaders should understand that this will be lots of work, and the rest of the staff needs to recognize them as leaders and be consistent with following the directions set forth.
- Will you have student leaders as well? How will they be chosen? What will their expectation be?
- When will you meet as a staff to discuss how it's going? At EMS, we found these meetings to be the most important as far as teachers sharing Apps and how they are using them effectively, ways that they are organizing student work, and problems that they may be having. We usually utilized about 10 minutes during our Monday late-starts to talk about these issues (this will probably be time during Friday early-release days going forward).

2. What will the discipline protocol look like?

- How will you consistently handle students who abuse their privileges?
- 1st strike > 2nd strike > 3rd strike consequences
- You will have students who don't have iPads charged/forgot them at home/have their machines in for repair. How will you handle these kids? Will it be their responsibility to get the work? How about the kids who lose the privilege entirely?
- Everyday reminders

3. What needs to be updated in your school and classroom expectations?

Think about how your school will deal with specific situations including:

- Use of devices in the cafeteria and other areas
- Student use of audio and video recording capabilities
- Playing audio or video and the use of headphones
- In school charging
- Consequences for inappropriate use during class
- Consequences for forgetting device

4. What Apps will the staff rollout for students at the beginning of the year?

- Don't overwhelm the kids during the first few months. 1-3 Apps that are consistent among the staff for the beginning months.
- EMS used Notability as the note-taking App, eBackpack as the paperless homework App, and Edmodo for myriad reasons.

5. What will your initial rollout look like?

- Have a plan and stick with it
- Don't give them out on the first day. Give at least two weeks for staff to relay expectations, behavior protocol, introduce start-of-year Apps, etc...(maybe this is done through Advisory, but it's important that all kids get the same message).
- Parents should be given an opportunity to learn the expectations and basic iPad skills too.

6. What access will students have to Apps?

- At EMS, we gave kids full access to their App stores at the beginning of the year. We shifted this thinking at semester break and took this away from students. They could earn it back through following behavior and academic expectations. The App Store became a reward for students who proved that they could handle the responsibility. We're not suggesting this is the right way for high school students, but it did work better at the middle school.
- If students do have access to the App Store and are abusing the privilege, how will this be handled?

7. How will the incorporation of student devices help support the district's focus and mission? How will it help you be a better teacher?

Other points to remember and emphasize to the staff and students:

- iPads should not be looked at as a substitute for desktop/laptop computers. They should work in conjunction with them.
- These machines don't belong to the kids. They're not theirs. They're amazing tools that are loaned to them by the district to help them be better organized and give them access to Apps that will assist their learning. If a student abuses them, that student will no longer have access to his/her iPad.